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(57) Abstract

This invention relates to a novel strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 transformed by a novel plasmid and phytase produced therefrom, and more particularly, to the strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 transformed with a novel recombinant vector pKP1 or pKP2, so prepared by a gene manipulation, through elucidating the gene sequence intended for the mass production of a novel phytase serving the role to enhance the phosphorous bioavailability in grains used as livestock feeds.

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A STRAIN E.coli JM83/pKP2 TRANSFORMED WITH A NOVEL PLASMID AND PHYTASE PRODUCED THEREFROM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

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This invention relates to a strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 transformed with a novel plasmid and phytase produced therefrom and, more particularly, to a strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 transformed with a novel recombinant vector pKP1 or pKP2, so prepared by a gene manipulation, through elucidating the gene sequence intended for the mass production of a novel phytase serving the role to enhance the phosphorous bioavailability in grains used as livestock feeds.

Description of the Prior Art

Phytase is an enzyme which degrades phytic acid into phosphate and phosphate inositol. 50 ~ 70% of phosphate in grain used as livestock feeds exists in the form of phytic acid, but phytase is not present in monogastric animals such as hens and hogs, thus resulting in low phosphate availability. Further, indigested phytic acid phytate released to a water source has become one of the serious environment contamination sources and causes eutrophication in small lakes or tides. Further, monogastric animals can not utilize phytic acid in their intestine due to its chelation with a trace amount of minerals, amino acids and vitamins which are essential for the metabolism of livestock. These formed water-insoluble and indigestible chelate-complexes released in the form of feces are responsible for the change of the environmental ecosystem, thus inducing a serious environmental contamination.

In view of these situations, the application of phytase into the livestock feeds can reduce the supply of inorganic phosphate due to an increase of phosphate bioavailability in livestock, thus leading to economic benefits. In addition, the improved availability of phosphate and other bioactive substances may also contribute

much to the reduction of the environmental contamination.

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In particular, the utilization of phytase in livestock is very important in that the law regulating the amount of phosphate in animal waste was established in 1996 in Korea and, in addition to that, it has been mandatory to add phytase in the feeds of animals in the European countries. Further, when phytase is added to the feeds, it may greatly improve the productivity of livestock by enhancing the availability of some bioactive substances such as vitamins and amino acids, including some trace elements such as calcium and zinc ions whose activity is reduced by chelation with negatively charged phytate. As such, the use of feeds containing phytase in livestock can enhance the availability of feeds and reduce the environmental contamination caused by phosphate.

From the aforementioned benefits, the intensive studies with respect to phytase including the effects of phytase on animals (L.G. Young et al., 1993; X.G. Lei et al., 1994; Z. Morez et al., 1994) have been performed mainly in Europe (A.H.J. Ullah et al., 1994; K.C.Enrich, 1994; C.S. Piddington, 1993). However, since phytase can cleave a limited number of phosphate only and is mostly produced by molds which have slow growth rate, it is not economical in terms of mass production. In addition, it is difficult to use the phytic acid as an additive for monogastric animals since it is undesirable for their physiological characteristics.

The inventor, et al. have performed intensive studies for overcoming the above problems associated with phytase. As a result, a novel strain *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 producing phytase with an excellent activity and different characteristics over the conventional phytase was identified and deposited to the Korean Collection for Type Cultures within the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology affiliated with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KCTC 0231BP), the Korean Patent Strain Depository Institute. The above patent application was filed with the Korean Industrial Patent Office (The Korean Patent Appl. No.: 96-6817). Hence, various characteristics on a novel phytase produced from the microorganism were

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investigated and, as a result, the novel phytase proved to be excellent on heat and pH with better stability.

From the above results, the inventor et al. sequenced the DNA by cloning some phytase-coding gene in a strain *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 under the patent application so as to ensure the mass production of a novel phytase having the above excellent characteristics. As a result, the phytase-coding gene sequence of *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 was recognized to be a novel one, being entirely different from that of *Aspergillus awamori*(WO 94-3072A), *Aspergillus ficuum* (EP 420358, US 5436156), *Aspergillus niger*(EP 420358) and *Aspergillus terreus*(EP 684313) among the genes cloned hitherto. Thus, its accessory No. U85968(dated January 21, 1997) was given from GenBank of NCBI in the U.S.A.

Next, the inventor et al. transformed *E.coli* with the plasmid vector (pKP1 or pKP2) encoding the phytase gene of *Bacillus* sp. DS-11, and the transformed strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 was deposited at the Korean Collection for Type Cultures within the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology affiliated with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KCTC 0308BP dated January 28, 1997), the Korean Patent Strain Depository Institute.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of this invention is to provide a plasmid vector pKP1 and pKP2 for transformation intended for mass production of phytase, a transformed strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2(KCTC 0308BP) herewith, and a process of mass production of phytase from said strain.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1a shows the subcloning and mapping of pKP1 by restriction enzyme;

Fig. 1b shows the subcloning and mapping of pKP 2 by restriction enzyme;

Fig. 2 shows the base sequence and the estimated amino acid sequence of

phytase DS-11;

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Fig. 3a shows the relative activity of phytase DS-11, produced from a transformed strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2, on heat;

Fig. 3b shows the relative activity of phytase DS-11, produced from a transformed strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2, on pH.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a novel phytase from Bacillus sp. DS11 and characterized by DNA base sequence of the sequence table 1 or amino acid sequence of the sequence table 2.

Also, this invention includes plasmid pKP1 or pKP2 containing DNA of sequence table 1, which is ligated in such a manner and expressed in *E.coli*.

Further, this invention includes a novel strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 (KCTC 0308BP) transformed with plasmid pKP1 or pKP2 containing the phytase-coding gene of the sequence table 1.

This invention is explained in more detail as set forth hereunder.

According to this invention, the phytase-coding gene obtained from *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 is inserted into a plasmid pUC19 vector to prepare a novel recombinant DNA expression vector pKP1 or pKP2. After culturing *E.coli* JM-83 cloned by recombinant DNA expression vector, some colonies with effective expression potency are selected and then used for the mass production of phytase via cultivation of such colonies. Further, only pKP1 or pKP2, the recombinant DNA expression vector, is isolated from the colonies to determine its DNA sequence.

This invention is explained in more detail by the following steps.

Preparation of Novel Plasmid pKP1 and pKP2

(1) Sequencing of N-terminal amino acid

Purified phytase protein was applied to SDS-polyacrylamide ge

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electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and transferred to PVDF membrane(Bio-Rad Lab). Then, the electroblotting was performed using 10 mM CAPS(3-cyclohexylamino-1-propanesulfonic acid) buffer solution containing 10 % methanol under pH 11.0, 4 °C and 400 mA for 45 hours. After cleaving the desired protein band only, it was analyzed by the Edman method using a protein/peptide sequencer [Applied Biosystems model 476A Protein/Peptide Sequencer(Applied Biosystems Ins., CA, USA)].

N-terminal amino acid sequence of purified phytase protein:

Ser-Asp-Pro-Tyr-His-Phe-Thr-Val-Asn-Ala-Ala-X-Glu-Thr-Glu

(2) Amino acid sequencing of inner peptide

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Purified phytase protein was added to 70 % formic acid to 1 % (w/v) concentration, and with the addition of about 100-fold mass of CNBr, the mixture was reacted at room temperature for 24 hours. Then, 100-fold water was added to the reacting solution, and the reaction was discontinued. Using the same procedure as described in the above (1), electrophoresis was carried out to determine the amino acid sequence of inner peptide.

N-terminal amino acid sequence of internal protein fragments of phytase cleaved with :

CNBr;

Ala-X-Asp-Asp-Glu-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Leu-Tyr

(3) Preparation of oligonucleotide probe

Oligonucleotide probe was designed based on the amino acid sequence obtained in the procedure as described in the above (1) and (2), and synthesized with DNA synthesizer(Applied Biosystems ABI 380B).

With oligonucleotide, so synthesized by the above method as a primer and chromosomal DNA of DS-11 as template DNA as well as Taq DNA polymerase and dNTP in use, polymerase chain reaction(PCR) was carried out under the following conditions:

- ① Denaturation: 95°C for one minute
- ② Annealing: 50°C for one minute

3 Polymerization: 72°C for one minute

4) Post-elongation: 72°C for 7 minutes

Under the above conditions, the PCR was carried out and followed by 1.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis to obtain 600-bp PCR product.

After recovering the PCR product from the gel, it was used as a probe.

Oligonucleotide probe based on N-terminal amino acid sequence;

Amino acid sequence:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Ser-Asp-Pro-Tyr-His-Phe-Thr-Val-Asn-Ala-Ala-X-Glu-Thr-Glu

10 Possible combination of codons: 5' GAT - CCT - TAT - CAT - TTT 3'

C C C C C

G

Α

Oligonucleotide probe based on N-terminal amino acid sequence of internal protein fragments;

Amino acid sequence:

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Ala-X-Asp-Asp-Glu-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Leu-Tyr

Possible combination of codons: 3' CTA - CTA - CTT - ATA - CCA 5'

20 G G C G G

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C

(4) Hybridization of DS-11 genomic DNA

Chromosomal DNA derived from *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 was isolated by the
Marmur method(Marmur J. 1961, Mol Biol. 3, 208). To ascertain whether the
oligonucleotide probe prepared by the above (3) was appropriate in the screening of
genomic library, genomic DNA cleaved with several restriction enzymes was applied to
agarose gel electrophoresis and then transferred to the nylon membrane. Then,

with DIG DNA labeling and detection kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Germany)] as well as 600-bp DNA fragments as a probe, so synthesized from the above (3), southern hybridization was performed. As a result, it was confirmed that when *HindIII*, *Cla* I and *PstI* were applied, the gene showed a positive signal at 2.2 kb, 4 kb and 6 kb, respectively. When the genomic library of *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 was prepared, therefore, restriction enzyme *HindIII* was employed.

(5) Screening for the phytase-coding gene

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Chromosomal DNA of Bacillus sp. DS-11 was cleaved with HindIII and then, 3-5 kb DNA fragments were screened. Such DNA fragments were also cleaved with HindIII, ligated to vector pUC19 treated with phosphatase (CIP) and introduced Such transformed strain was cultured in into the competent E.coli JM83. LB(Luria-Bertani) plate containing 100 μg/ml of ampicillin at 37 °C for 16 hours and transferred to the nylon membrane. Further, the strain was under colony hybridization with DNA oligonucleotide probe, so synthesized from the above (3), to select some colonies representing the signal. In order to identify whether phytase gene of Bacillus sp. DS-11 was properly introduced into the host, the phytase activity was measured by the Fiske method (Fiske C. H. and Subbarow Y. P., J.Biol. Chem. As a result, 2 colonies having the signal could be obtained among 1925, 66, 375). They were cultured and then plasmids, 4.9-kb in size joined by 10,000 colonies. 2.2-kb insert DNA, were isolated. And such plasmid was named as pKP1. addition, it was ascertained that the pKP1 contained phytase gene properly inserted through measuring the expression potency of phytase.

(6) Mapping and subcloning using a restriction enzyme

As a result of cleaving 4.9-kb pKP1 with several restriction enzymes, it was confirmed to be some restriction sites of *EcoRI*, *BamHI*, *NdeI*, *HincII* and *EcoRV* within 2.2-kb insert DNA. To find out the genes only necessary for the expression of enzyme potency, the subcloning of the pKP1 plasmid was carried out (Fig. 1a). pKP1 and pUC19 were cleaved with *HindIII* and *NdeI*, respectively, joined each other.

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Such plamid vector was introduced into *E.coli* JM83 so that *E.coli* JM83 with 4.4-kb pKP2 containing 1.7kb-insert DNA might be obtained(Fig. 1b).

Transformation Process of Strain

Chromosomal DNA of *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 was cleaved with *Hin*dIII and then, 3-5 kb DNA fragments was selected. Such DNA fragments were also cleaved with *Hin*dIII, ligated to vector pUC19 treated with phosphatase (CIP) to obtain a novel plasmid pKP1 or pKP2. To express such plasmid into phytase, it was introduced into the competent *E.coli* JM83 as a host. Thus, the transformed strain, was named as *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 and deposited to the Korean Collection for Type Cultures within the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology affiliated to the Korea Institute of Science and Technology dated January 28, 1997 (the accession No.: KCTC 0308BP).

The bacteriological, cultural and microbiological characteristics of the transformed strain were studied, and all results were the same as that of *E.coli* except for the production capability of phytase.

Isolation and Purification of Phytase Produced from the Transformed Strain

The novel strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2, so transformed, was cultured in LB liquid medium containing 100 μ g/m ℓ of ampicillin at 37 °C, centrifuged and recovered. The recovered microorganism was dissolved in the Tris buffer solution (10 mM, pH 7.0) containing 5 mM CaCl₂ and sonicated for 1 hour using Sonifier 450. Then, the sonicated microorganism was re-centrifuged, and its supernatants were used as crude enzyme solution. The protein saturated with 50 % acetone was isolated on Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC consisting of open column of phenyl sepharose CL-4B and Resource S superose 12HR 10/30 column), the same enzyme as phytase produced from *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 prior to gene manipulation could be isolated.

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Measurement of Phytase Potency Produced from the Transformed Strain]

(1) Measurement of phytase potency

The novel strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2, so transformed, was cultured in LB agar (Luria-Bertani) plate containing 100 μg/mℓ of ampicillin at 37°C for 16 hours and transferred to the nylon membrane. The strain was applied to colony hybridization with DNA oligonucleotide probe, so synthesized in the above (3), so as to examine the colonies representing the signal. To ascertain whether phytase-coding gene of *Bacillus sp.* DS-11 was properly introduced into *E.coli* JM83, the phytase potency was measured by the Fiske method(Fiske C. H. and Subbarow Y. P., J.Biol. Chem. 1925, 66, 375). As a result, the transformed strains having complete enzymatic activity were selected.

(2) Comparison on activity and stability of phytase on heat and pH including its molecular weight

To ascertain whether phytase produced from the transformed strain *E.coli* JM83/pKP2 was the same as that phytase produced from the original strain, the activity and stability on heat and pH of phytase were compared. To measure its stability on heat, each phytase was left at predetermined temperature for 10 minutes in the same method and then its residual activity measured. As shown in Fig. 3a, when calcium ion (Ca^{2+}) was not added into the phytase-containing solution, the activity of phytase began to reduce at $40^{\circ}C$, while in case of adding 5 mM calcium ion, it was stabilized up to $70^{\circ}C$ and its activity was maintained by 50° even at $90^{\circ}C$.

Also, Fig. 3b shows the phytase activity depends on pH and the optimum pH of both phytases is 7.0. Further, to identify its stability on pH, each phytase was left at different values of pH for 1 hour and followed to measure its residual activity, respectively. Even at acidic condition of less than pH 4, both phytases showed significant enzymatic activity and thus, it was considered that they may be stabilized in the stomach.

Besides, both phytases have the same molecular weight of 43,000 Dalton.

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From the above results, it was considered that phytase produced from the transformed strains was the same as one produced from the original one (*Bacillus* sp. DS-11).

5 DNA Sequencing of Phytase-coding Gene

To sequencing 1.7-kb insert DNA within pKP2, after deletion subclones in several different sizes were obtained based on restriction site. The DNA fragment of the total 1.7-kb was prepared from them with PCR using forward and reverse primers. And then, the open reading frame (ORF) of phytase consisting of 1149 nucleotides (383 amino acids) was sequenced using MacMolly 3.5 program and as a result, it was ascertained that the above phytase coincided with N-terminal amino acid of phytase (15 amino acids) isolated from *Bacillus* sp. DS-11 strain (Fig. 2). Further, it was considered that this was a novel phytase, being entirely different from that produced from the conventional *Aspergillus* sp. strains. As a result of analyzing its amino acid sequence, 80% between 175 amino acids of C-terminal of this invention and gene of operon regulated by the Sporulation Regulatory Protein of *Bacillus subtilis* was coincided.

Sequence Table 1

Sequence length: 1149

Type of sequence: Nucleic acid

Number of chain: Double helix

5 Shape: Linear

Sequence type: Genomic DNA

Origin:

Name of species: Bacillus sp.

Name of strain: DS-11

10 Features of sequence:

Signal representing the features: CDS

Location of presence: 377..1526

Method to determine the features: E

Signal representing the features : sig peptide

Location of presence: 377..466

Method to determine the characteristics: E

Signal representing the characteristics: mat peptide

20 Location of presence: 467..1526

Method to determine the characteristics: E

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Sequence 1

10 20 30 40 ATGANTCATT CARANACACT TITGITANCC GCGGCAGCCG GATTGATGCT CACATGCGGT GCGGTTTCTT CTCAGGCCAA ACATAAGCTG TCTGATCCTT ATCATTTTAC CGTGAATGCG GCGGCGGAAA CGGAGCCGGT TGATACAGCC GGTGATGCAG CTGATGATCC TGCGATTTGG CTGGACCCCA AGAATCCTCA GAACAGCAAA TTGATCACAA CCAATAAAAA ATCAGGCTTA GCCGTGTACA GCCTAGAGGG AAAGATGCTT CATTCCTATC ATACCGGGAA GCTGAACAAT GITGATATCC GATATGATTT TCCGTTGAAC GGAAAAAAAG TCGATATTGC GGCGGCATCC ANTOGGTOTG ANGGANGAN TACCATTGAG ATTTACGCCA TTGACGGGAN ANACGGCACA TTACAAAGCA TTACGGATCC AAACCGCCCG ATTGCATCAG CAATTGATGA AGTATACGGT TTCAGCTTGT ACCACAGTCA AAAAACAGGA AAATATTACG CGATGGTGAC AGGAAAAGAA GGCGAATTIG AACAATACGA ATTAAATGCG GATAAAAATG GATACATATC CGGCAAAAAG GTARGGGCGT TTARARTGAR TTCTCRGACA GRAGGGATGG CAGCAGACGA TGRATACGGC AGTOTTTATA TOGORGAGA AGATGAGGOO ATCTGGAAGT TOAGCGOTGA GCCGGACGGO GGCAGTAACG GAACGGTTAT CGATCGTGCC GATGGCAGGC ATTTAACCCC TGATATTGAA GGACTGACGA TTTACTACGC TGCTGACGGG AAAGGCTATC TGCTTGCCTC AAGCCAGGGT NACAGCAGCT ATGCGATTTA TGANAGACAG GGACAGAACA AATATGTTGG GGACTTTCAG ATAACAGACG GGCCTGAAAC AGACGGCACA AGCGATACAG ACGGAATTGA CGTTCTGGGT TYCGGGCTGG GGCCTGAATA TCCGTTCGGT CTTTTTGTCG CACAGGACGG AGAGAATATA GATCACGGCC ANARGGCCAN TCANANTITT ANARTGGTGC CATGGGAAAG AATCGCTGAT AAAATCGGCT TTCACCCGCA GGTCAATAAA CAGGTCGACC CGAGAAAAAT GACCGACACA AGCGGAAAAT AA

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Sequence Table 2

Sequencing length: 383

Sequencing form: amino acid

Shape: Linear

5 Sequence type: protein

Sequence

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Met Asn His Ser Lys Thr Leu Leu Leu Thr Ala Ala Ala Gly Leu Met Leu Thr Cys Gly Ala Val Ser Ser Glu Ala Lys His Lys Leu Ser Asp Pro Tyr His Phe Thr Val Asn Ala Ala Ala Gin Thr Gin Pro Val Asp Thr Ala Gly Asp Ala Ala Asp Asp Pro Ala Ile Leu Asp Pro Lys Asn Pro Glu Asn Ser Lys Leu Ile Thr Thr Asn Lys Lys Ser Gly Leu Ala Val Tyr Ser Leu Gln Gly Lys Met Leu Tyr His Thr Gly Lys Leu Asn Asn His Ser Val Asp Ile Arg Tyr Asp Phe Pro Leu Asn Gly Lys Lys Val Asp Ile Ala Ala Ala Ser Asn Arg Ser Gln Gly Lys Asn Thr Ile lle Tyr Ala lle Asp Gly Lys Asn Gly Thr Leu Glu Ser Ile Thr Asp Pro Asn Arg Pro 15 Ile Ala Ser Ala Ile Asp Gln Val Tyr Gly Phe Ser Leu Tyr His Ser Glu Lys Thr Gly Lys Tyr Try Ala Met Val Thr Gly Lys Gin Gly Gin Phe Gln Glu Tyr Gln Leu Asn Ala Asp Lys Asn Gly Tyr Ile Ser Gly Lys Lys 20 Val Arg Ala Phe Lys Met Asn Ser Glu Thr Gln Gly Met Ala Ala Asp Asp Gln Tyr Gly Ser Leu Tyr lle Ala Gln Gln Asp Gln Ala lle Trp Lys Phe Ser Ala Gln Pro Asp Gly Gly Ser Asn Gly Thr Val Ile Asp Arg Ala 25 Asp Gly Arg His Leu Thr Pro Asp Ile Gin Gly Leu Thr Ile Tyr Tyr Ala Ala Asp Gly Lys Gly Tyr Leu Leu Ala Ser Ser Glu Gly Asn Ser Ser Tyr Ala Ile Tyr Gin Arg Giu Gly Glu Asn Lys Tyr Val Ala Asp Phe Glu 30 lle Thr Asp Gly Phe Gln Thr Asp Gly Thr Ser Asp Thr Asp Gly Ile Asp Val Leu Gly Phe Gly Leu Gly Pro Gin Tyr Pro Phe Gly Leu Phe Val Ala Glu Asp Gly Gln Asn Ile Gly Glu Lys Ala Asn Glu Asn Phe Asp His 35 Lys Met Val Pro Trp Gln Arg Ile Ala Asp Lys Ile Gly Phe His Pro Glu Val Asn Lys Glu Val Asp Pro Arg Lys Met Thr Asp Arg Ser Gly Lys

This invention has the advantages of economy with respect to the preparation of phytase in a large-scale since a recombinant DNA expression vector is prepared using the sequences of DNA and amino acid in such a manner as elucidated in the above and may be introduced into other living organisms having a rapid growth rate and easily regulatable to produce phytase having excellent activity and characteristics.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A plasmid having the DNA sequence of sequence table 1
- 5 2. E.coli JM83/pKP2 transformed with the plasmid having the DNA sequence of sequence table 1.
 - 3. Phytase produced from the strain E.coli JM83/pKP2.
- 4. Phytase according to claim 3, wherein said phytase is the amino acid sequence of sequence table 2.

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1/4 FIG. 1a

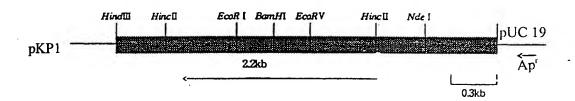
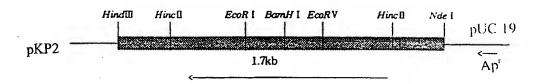


FIG. 1b

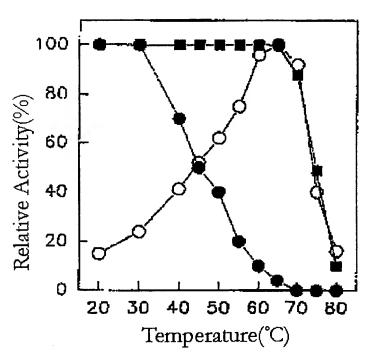


2/4

FIG. 2

Length of R: 1821 bp; Listed from: 2 to: 1821; Translated from: 377 to: 1526 (Entire region); Genetic Code used: Universal; 1996 [712] · 30 4 (7 ·) 1:27 PM

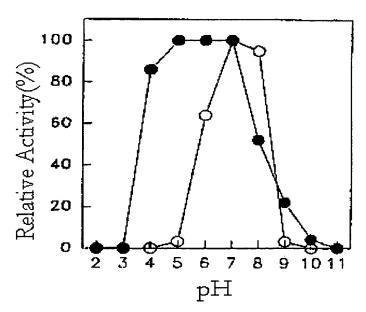




- -o- Phytase produced from Bacillus sp.
- -•- Phytase produced from E.coli JM83/-pKP without addition of Ca²⁺
- -■- Phytase produced from E.coli JM83/pKP2 with addition of 5mM Ca²⁺

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- -o- Phytase produced from Bacillus sp.
- -•- Phytase produced from JM83/pKP2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR 98/00056

A.	CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT M	LATTER

IPC⁶: C 12 N 15/55, 1/21, 9/16 // (C 12 N 1/21; C 12 R 1:19)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC⁶: C 12 N 15/55, 1/21, 9/16

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPIL, CAS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
EP 0 420 358 A1 (GIST-BROCADES N.V.) 03 April 1991 (03.04.91), claims 1,2.	3
EP 0 684 313 A2 (F.HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG) 29 November 1995 (29.11.95), claim 1.	3 .
WO 94/03 612 A1 (ALKO LTD.) 17 February 1994 (17.02.94) claims 1,2.	3
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	EP 0 420 358 A1 (GIST-BROCADES N.V.) 03 April 1991 (03.04.91), claims 1,2. EP 0 684 313 A2 (F.HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG) 29 November 1995 (29.11.95), claim 1. W0 94/03 612 A1 (ALKO LTD.) 17 February 1994 (17.02.94)

	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.
"A" "E" "C" "P"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined without or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
Date	e of the actual completion of the international search 15 May 1998 (15.05.98)	Date of mailing of the international search report 26 May 1998 (26.05.98)
	ne and mailing address of the ISA/AT AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE Kohlmarkt 8–10 A–1014 Vienna simile No. 1/53424/535	Authorized officer Wolf Telephone No. 1/53424/436

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/KR 98/00056

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EP A1	420358	03-04-91	41 1460 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	1331125751121212145113151561562 999999999999999999999999999999999999
EP A2	684313	29-11-95	CN A 1126243 JP A2 8056676	10-07-96 05-03-96
WO A1	9403612	17-02-94	EP A1 659215 FI A0 950202 FI A 950202 JP T2 8501685	28-06-95 17-01-95 17-03-95 27-02-96